

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A vehicle body structure for a vehicle having a center console cross member for a receiving console for a steering column, and a strut connected between the center console cross member and a spaced cowl cross member of the motor vehicle, wherein:

the strut is supported on a junction element arranged in an interior of the cowl cross member, via an exterior-side holder; and

the junction element fills out an interior cross-section of the cowl cross member in a supporting area of the strut in a precisely fitting manner.

2. The body structure according to Claim 1, wherein the junction element consists of a profile element arranged in a bottom shell of the cowl cross member; and

a structural foam part arranged on the profile element in a top shell of the cowl cross member.

3. The body structure according to Claim 2, wherein:

the structural foam part is arranged directly on the profile element;  
and

in an installed condition, the structural foam part is arranged with a gap with respect to the top shell of the cowl cross member and, in a supporting condition of the strut, is arranged in a heat-expanded manner inside the shell while filling it out without a gap.

4. The body structure according to Claim 2, wherein:

the holder is fixedly connected with the bottom shell of the cowl cross member; and

a bearing element is fastened to the holder, which bearing element is held on the strut via a fastening screw.

5. The body structure according to Claim 4, wherein:

the bearing element comprises a sleeve directly connected with the holder, and an axially adjoining compensation element; and

the sleeve and the compensation element are mutually connectable by the screw which is fastened to the holder by a threaded nut.

6. The body structure according to Claim 1, wherein:

the compensation element is connected with the strut in a premountable manner; and

the threaded nut is fastened to a side facing away from the compensation element on the holder.

7. In a vehicle body having a cowl cross member, a center console cross member and a strut connected between said cross members, a rigid connecting element for connecting said strut to said cowl cross member, said connecting element comprising:

a profile element which has a cross sectional shape that conforms to a cross sectional shape of a bottom shell of said cowl cross member and is fixedly connected thereto; and

a structural foam part that is arranged on the profile element in a top shell of the cowl cross member; wherein,

the strut is supported on the cowl cross member at one end thereof, via the junction element; and

the connecting element conforms to and completely fills an interior cross section of the cowl cross member.

8. A method of manufacturing a rigid connecting element for a vehicle body structure having a cowl cross member connected to a center console cross member via a connecting strut which is coupled to the cowl cross member by the connecting element, the connecting element comprising a profile element which has a cross sectional shape that conforms to a cross sectional shape of a bottom shell of said cowl cross member and is fixedly connected thereto; and a structural foam part that is arranged on the profile element in a top shell of the cowl cross member; wherein, the strut is supported on the cowl cross member at one end thereof, via the junction element; and the connecting element conforms to and completely fills an interior cross section of the cowl cross member, said method comprising:

installing said structural foam part on said profile element, within said cowl cross member, with a gap between the foam part and the top shell of the cowl cross member;

heating said connecting element, whereby said foam part expands to conform precisely to an interior shape of the top shell of the cowl cross member, filling the same.